

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): A method for bleaching teeth comprising:  
~~applying~~ contacting a solution ~~containing that comprises a~~ nitrogen-doped titanium oxide powder on a surface of the teeth; and  
irradiating the ~~applied part~~ surface of the teeth in contact with the solution ~~with light~~ to bleach the surface of the teeth ~~based on by activating a photocatalytic reaction action thus~~ produced.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): The method for bleaching teeth as claimed in claim 1, wherein irradiating includes exposing the surface of the teeth to a light in the visible light range ~~is irradiated as the light~~.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A bleaching agent for teeth comprising:  
a solution ~~containing that comprises a~~ nitrogen-doped titanium oxide powder which is attached to a surface of the teeth; and  
wherein the solution attached to the teeth is irradiated with light to bleach the teeth ~~based on by activating a photocatalytic reaction action thus produced~~.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in claim 3, wherein the ~~nitrogen-doped~~ nitrogen-doped titanium oxide is a photocatalytic substance having a Ti-O-N structure ~~having of~~ a titanium oxide crystalline lattice containing a nitrogen and ~~exhibiting a photocatalytic action responsive to photocatalytic activation when irradiated~~ with a light in a visible light region.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in ~~claim 4~~ claim 3, wherein the nitrogen-doped titanium oxide powder contains ~~comprises a~~ titanium oxide ~~containing no~~ that does not contain a nitrogen on the outer surface thereof.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in ~~claim 4~~ claim 3, wherein ~~a surface of~~ the nitrogen doped titanium oxide powder has a surface that comprises a ceramic carried in an island form, a needle form, or a mesh form.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in ~~claim 4~~ claim 3, wherein ~~a surface of~~ the nitrogen-doped titanium oxide powder has a surface that carries a charge separation substance.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in claim 3, ~~wherein the bleaching agent for teeth which~~ contains nitrogen-doped titanium oxide powder ~~in an amount of 0.01-0.01~~ to 5% by weight ~~of the nitrogen-doped titanium oxide powder~~.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in claim 3, wherein the nitrogen-doped titanium oxide powder has a specific surface area of 10 to 500 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in claim 3, wherein the solution contains water and/or an alcohol as a solvent.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in claim 10, wherein the alcohol is a polyhydric alcohol.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in claim 3, ~~wherein the bleaching agent for teeth which~~ further comprises a thickener in an amount of 0.5 to 20% by weight of a thickener.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in ~~any one of claims 3 to 12~~ claim 3, wherein the bleaching agent for teeth further comprises hydrogen peroxide in an amount of 1 to 20% by weight of hydrogen peroxide.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in ~~any one of claims 3 to 13~~ claim 3, wherein the bleaching agent for teeth further comprises urea peroxide in an amount of 2 to 45% by weight of urea peroxide.

Claim 15 (New): The bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in claim 3, wherein the nitrogen-doped titanium oxide powder has a surface comprising apatite.

Claim 16 (New): The bleaching agent for teeth as claimed in claim 3, wherein the nitrogen-doped titanium oxide powder has a surface comprising platinum.

Claim 17 (New): An article for bleaching teeth comprising:  
a nitrogen-doped titanium oxide powder having a Ti-O-N structure of a titanium oxide crystalline lattice containing a nitrogen, and is responsive to photocatalytic activation when irradiated with a light in a visible light region; and

hydrogen peroxide and/or urea peroxide.

Claim 18 (New): The article of claim 17, wherein the hydrogen peroxide is present in an amount of 1 to 20% by weight.

Claim 19 (New): The article of claim 17, wherein the urea peroxide is present in an amount of 2 to 45% by weight.

Claim 20 (New): The article of claim 17, wherein the nitrogen-doped titanium oxide powder comprises apatite.

Claim 21 (New): The article of claim 17, wherein the nitrogen-doped titanium oxide powder comprises platinum.

Claim 22 (New): The article of claim 17, wherein the nitrogen-doped titanium oxide powder is dissolved in an aqueous solution and/or an alcohol solvent.